

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 02421 262318Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 INR-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /022 W  
-----262322Z 067389 /12

P 262243Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7542

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2421

FOR ARA/CEN

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TA: PGOV, CS  
SUBJECT: CANDIDACY OF JOSE MARIA FIGUERES AT U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY,  
WEST POINT

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN CONTACTED PERSONALLY BY EX-PRESIDENT JOSE FIGUERES ON SUBJECT OF HIS SON'S ACCEPTANCE FOR READMISSION TO WEST POINT TO COMPLETE HIS FINAL YEAR OF STUDIES. FIGUERES SAID THAT THE OFFICIAL LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE SENT TO JOSE MARIA EARLIER IN MAY WAS RECEIVED ON MAY 24. LETTER, GAVE DEADLINE OF MAY 20 FOR NOTIFICATION TO ACADEMY OF CANDIDATE'S PLANS. PRESIDENT FIGUERES ASKED THAT EMBASSY PASS FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO WEST POINT:

1) THAT HIS SON IS ATTEMPTING TO CALL THE ACADEMY DIRECTLY TO TALK ABOUT HIS SITUATION.

2) THAT YOUNG FIGUERES PXS TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES OVER WEEKEND AND TO BE AT WEST POINT MAY 30.

2. YOUNG FIGUERES WILL ASK FOR A YEAR'S LEAVE OF ABSENCE, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE HIS FINAL YEAR OF STUDY IN 1978-79. REASON FOR THIS REQUEST IS JOSE MARIA'S DEEP IN-  
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VOLVEMENT IN HIS FATHER'S BUSINESS OF PREFABRICATED HOUSE PRODUCTION: THE COMPANY IS IN PROCESS OF MANUFACTURING AND DELIVERING 8,500 SUCH UNITS TO VENEZUELA (ITS FIRST BIG CONTRACT IN THIS FLEDGLING ENTERPRISE) AND JOSE MARIA HAS BECOME HIS FATHER'S TRUSTED AND KEY COMPANY OFFICIAL IN THIS MATTER.  
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3. COMMENT: IF ACADEMY CAN DO IT, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS STRONGLY THAT YOUNG FIGUERES' REQUEST BE GRANTED. THE EX-PRESIDENT, WHO HAS SUFFERED A POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DECLINE OVER THE PAST YEAR OR SO, IS DEPENDING HEAVILY ON THE VENEZUELAN CONTRACT. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, JOSE FIGUERES' POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ARE SOMETIMES AFFECTED BY HIS ECONOMIC FORTUNES; A WELL RUN BUSINESS VENTURE, WHICH MAY WELL DEPEND ON JOSE MARIA'S ASSISTANCE, COULD HAVE A STABILIZING EFFECT ON FIGUERES IN THE POLITICAL ARENA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT INFORM APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AT UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY OF YOUNG FIGUERES' REQUEST, AND EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION.  
KILDAY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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